

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 6, 2012

Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response

Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

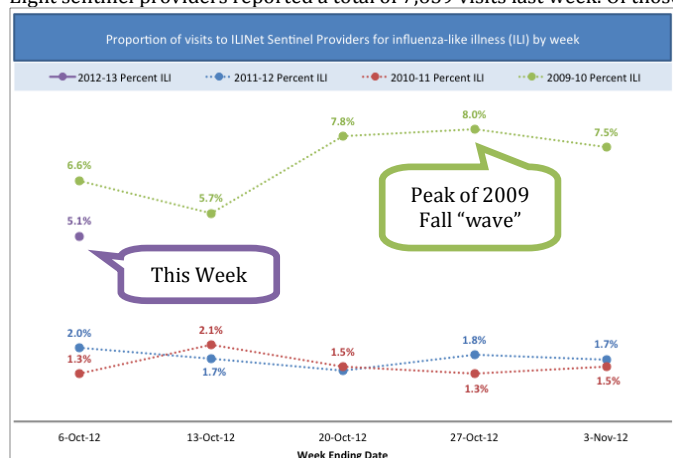
During the week ending October 6, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** in intensity and there was **no influenza geographic spread**. Four influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. None of the specimens received at the DHMH Laboratories Administration tested positive for influenza by PCR. No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported, and the visits to sentinel providers and Maryland emergency departments for ILI were below expected levels.

[Click here to read details of our flu surveillance](#)

ILI Intensity Levels	Influenza Geographic Spread
Minimal	No Activity
Low	Sporadic
Moderate	Local
High	Regional
	Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

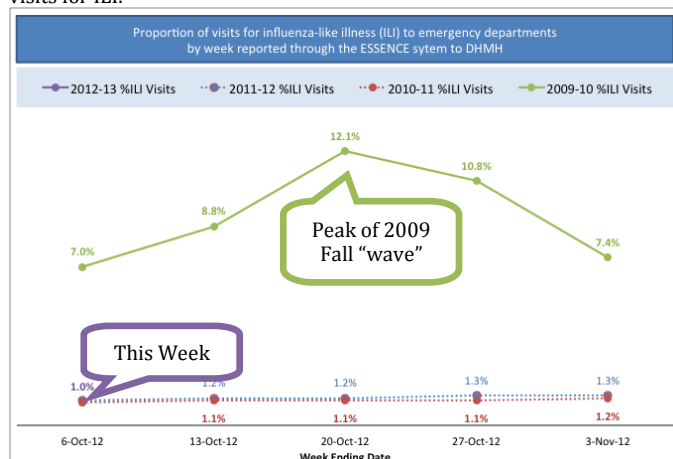
Eight sentinel providers reported a total of 7,659 visits last week. Of those, 58 (0.8%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	11 (19%)	11 (19%)
Age 5-24	27 (47%)	27 (47%)
Age 25-49	13 (22%)	13 (22%)
Age 50-64	6 (10%)	6 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	58 (100%)	58 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments of ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,031 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 450 (1.0%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4		
Age 5-24		
Age 25-49		
Age 50-64		
Age ≥ 65		
Non-ILI Visits		
Total Visits		

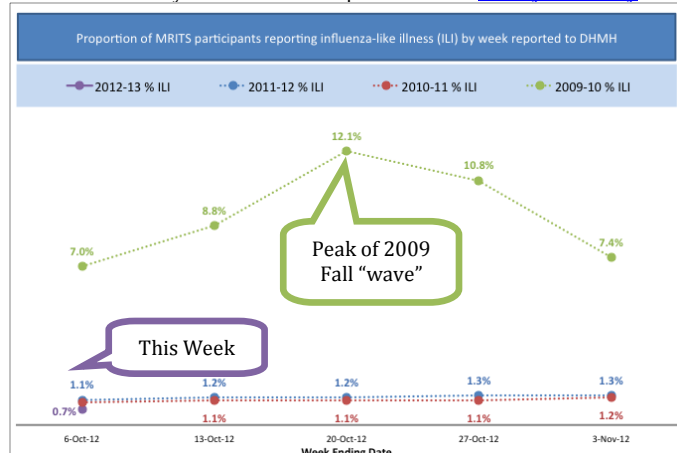
Data not available this week

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
 District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
 Pennsylvania [http://portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
 Virginia <http://vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza>
 West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Residents Influenza Tracking Survey

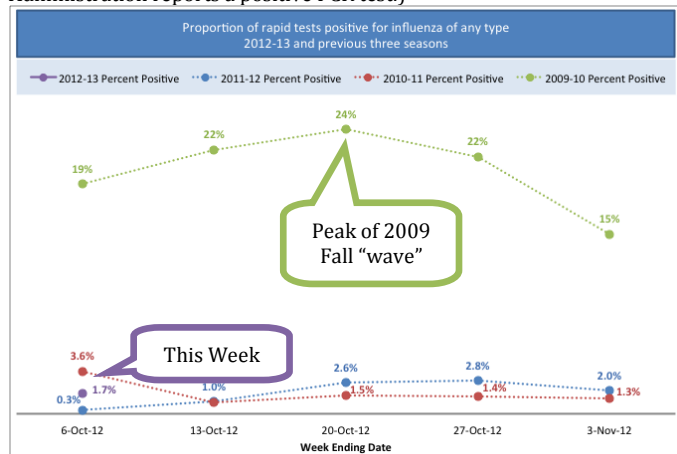
A total of 571 Maryland residents responded to the [weekly flu survey](#) this week. Of those, 4 (0.7%) reported having an influenza-like illness last week.



Reports of ILI by Age Group	Week 40 Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Age 5-24	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Age 25-49	--	--
Age 50-64	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--
Total	4 (100%)	4 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

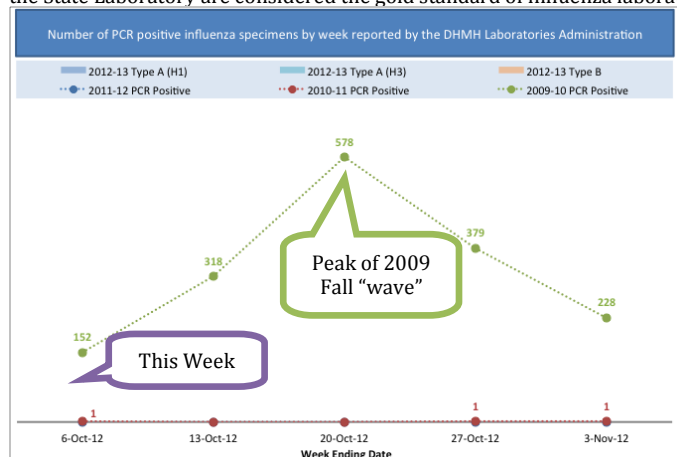
Last week, nineteen clinical laboratories reported 179 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 3 (1.7%) were positive. Two of those positive tests were positive for type A influenza, and one was positive for type B influenza. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests, particularly when influenza activity is low in the community. As a result, patients with a positive rapid test are not considered "confirmed" cases of influenza until the State Laboratories Administration reports a positive PCR test.)



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Flu Type	Week 40 Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	2 (67%)	2 (67%)
Type B	1 (33%)	1 (33%)
Total	3 (100%)	3 (100%)

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

Last week, the DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 17 PCR tests for influenza. None of those were positive. (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)



Positive PCR Tests by Flu Type	Week 40 Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--
Type A (H3)	--	--
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--
Type B	--	--
Total	0	0

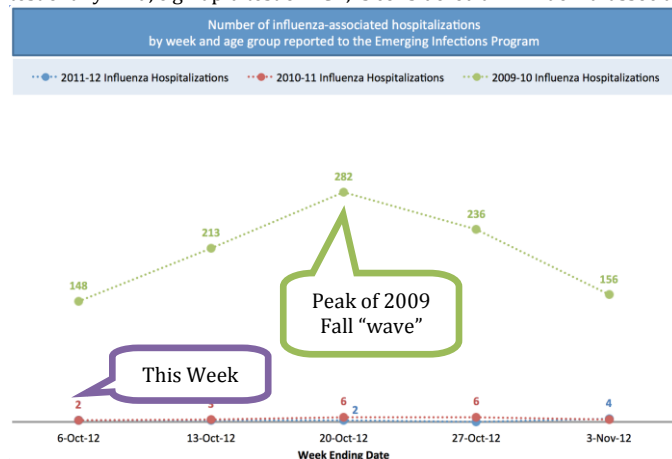
There have been no PCR-positive tests reported this flu season. As a result, there is no predominant influenza virus at this time.

Where to get an influenza vaccine

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2012-13 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza Associated Hospitalizations

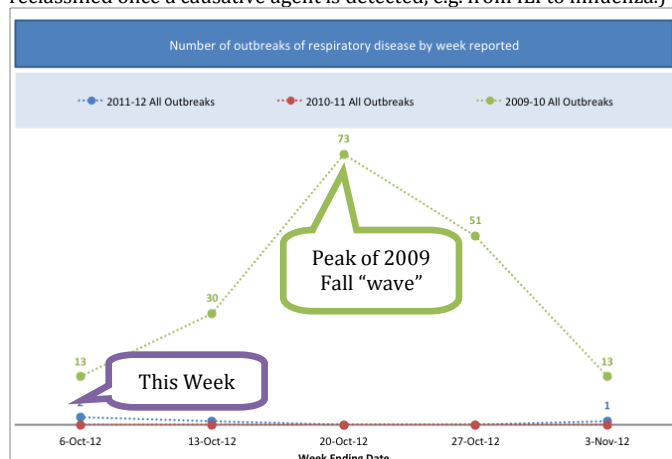
Last week, hospitals in Maryland reported 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Age 5-17	--	--
Age 18-24	--	--
Age 25-49	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Age 50-64	--	--
Age ≥ 65	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Total	4 (100%)	4 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH last week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--
Other Respiratory	--	--
Total	--	--

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During Week 40, influenza activity was low in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 2,870 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 40, 75 (2.6%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.2%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Forty-seven states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity. The District of Columbia and three states had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in one state (Wyoming) was reported as local. The District of Columbia and 29 states reported sporadic activity. Guam and 18 states reported no influenza activity. Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and two states did not report.

